

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJECT: U.S.-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT 01.05-1109,
DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND POPULAR
INFORMATION.

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING DATED MARCH 9, 1977, TO
DR. V. /. KRINITSKY, MAIN CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION, USSR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WITH COPY TO KAZAKOV, HYDROMET AND
MR. YURI ZARAKHOVICH, SOVIET PRESS ADVISOR, U.S. EMBASSY,
AND GILBERT A. CALLAWAY, PRESS AND CULTURAL.

2. 02.05-1109 - MARCH 9, 1977

DR. V. V. KRINITSKY

MAIN CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION

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USSR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
MOSCOW, USSR

DEAR VASILI VASILEVICH:

IN THE MEMORANDUM OF THE U.S.-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE PRO-
VISIONS WERE MADE FOR A VISIT TO THE USSR BY AUDUBON

SOCIETY PHOTOJOURNALISTS. WE HAVE NOW PREPARED A PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR THEIR VISIT. AUDUBON MAGAZINE PLANS TO DO

SEVERAL FEATURE ARTICLES ON WILDLIFE, NATURE CONSERVATION, PARKS AND PRESERVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE MAGAZINE HAS SELECTED MR. WILLIAM GILBERT, WILDLIFE WRITER TO MAKE THE TRIP AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE. MR. LES LINE, EDITOR OF AUDUBON MAGAZINE PLANS TO ACCOMPANY GILBERT FOR A PART OF THE TRIP.

3. GILBERT WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THE FUNCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ZAPOVEDNIKI, RESERVE AREAS AND FOCUS ON SOME OF THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT IN THEM SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING BEAVER, BISON, ELK AND THE KULAN. GILBERT IS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE TIGER, WOLF, BEAR, SNOW LEOPARD, RACON DOG, THE DESMAN AND RAPTORIAL BIRDS. GILBERT WOULD LIKE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND TO TALK TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE SOVIET UNION THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THIS WORK AND TO OBSERVE SOME OF THE PRACTICE. GILBERT IS INTERESTED IN THE RIVERS OF USSR WHICH HOLD A FASTINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SOME SOVIET RIVERS TO STUDY THEIR ECOLOGY, AND PERHAPS, CRUISE ON THE VOLGA. HUNTING IS A POPULAR SPORT IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. GILBERT WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WITH SOVIET COMMERCIAL, AND SPORT HUNTERS, GAME MANAGERS, HIKERS, CAMPERS AND OTHER OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS. GILBERT STRESSES THAT AS A JOURNALIST HE WISHES TO BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE PHENOMENA HE WRITES ABOUT AND HOPES THAT

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HE WILL BE ABLE TO SAMPLE HIKING, PACKING, CAMPING, CAVING OR CANOING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

4. REGARDING ITINERARY. GILBERT PROPOSES A TWO-THREE MONTH VISIT TRAVELLING FROM MOSCOW TO THE EAST AND EXISTING VIA Khabarovsk. HE WISHES TO VISIT RESERVES ON THE BALTIC COAST, PERHAPS MATSALU IN ESTONIA TO LOOK AT WATERFOWL. HE WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN BASHKIR PRESERVE AND VORONEZH PRESERVE TO STUDY BISON AND BEAVER PROPAGATION, THE DESMAN THE FLOOD PLAIN AND THE STEPPE. GILBERT FEELS THAT THE STEPPE AREAS HAS LONG CAUGHT THE AMERICAN IMAGINATION AND MAY PROVE TO BE A GOOD STORY SOURCE. HE WOULD LIKE TO VIEW APPROPRIATE STEPPE AREAS IN THE UKRAINE. IN SOVIET GEORGIA, THE SAGURAMO AND SATAPLIISKII RESERVES ARE OF INTEREST NOT ONLY FOR THEIR HISTORICAL FEATURES BUT FOR A STUDY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION. IN ARMENIA - THE GARNI RESERVES FOR A STUDY OF SEMI-ARID FLORA AND FAUNA. BADKHYZ IN TURKMENIA IS ANOTHER EXCELLENT EXAMPLE FOR ARRID AREA STUDY. GILBERT IS ALSO INTER-

ESTED IN THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN URALS, THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, ALMA-ATA AND THE CHATKAL MOUNTAIN FOREST. GILBERT ALSO WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE RESERVES IN

THE EASTERN MARITIME PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, PARTICULAR-
'Y SIKHOTE-ALIN, SUPUTINKA AND KHEKHTSIR.

5. GILBERT HAS BEEN REPORTING ON WILDLIFE SUBJECTS FOR TWENTY YEARS AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN MANY NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS. HE HAS RECEIVED AN AWARD FROM THE COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND FROM THE AMERICAN SCIENCE WRITERS ORGANIZATION FOR AN ARTICLE ON AMERICAN WILDLIFE COMPARABLE TO THE ONE HE IS PROPOSING TO WRITE ABOUT SOVIET WILDLIFE. HE HAS PUBLISHED THREE BOOKS ON WILDLIFE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS.

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6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HOSTING SUCH AN EXTENDED VISIT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER, THE PROJECT IS AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE ONE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO FOSTERING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION. AUDUBON MAGAZINE IS A LEADING WILDLIFE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN THE U.S., WITH A CIRCULATION OF 270,000 BOTH IN THE U.S. AND WORLD-WIDE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO CO-HOST SUCH A VISIT WITH INTOURIST, NOVOSTI AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC, TOURIST AND PRESS AGENCIES IN THE SOVIET UNION. ON U.S. SIDE WE WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF SPONSORING THIS EXCHANGE UNDER THE U.S.-USSR CULTURAL AGREEMENT IF IT SHOULD PROVE DIFFICULT TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. WE HAVE FORWARDED A COPY OF THIS CABLE TO MR. ZURI ZARAKHOVICH AND TO MR. GILBERT A. CALLAWAY, PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION, U.S. EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHAT POSSIBILITIES AND PROSPECTS EXIST FOR THIS PROJECT AND WHAT ITINERARY CAN BE OFFERED.

EARL B. BAYSINGER, CHIEF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STAFF
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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